

PATENT  
450100-04692**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Kiyotake YACHI et al.  
Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith  
International Application No.: PCT/JP03/09062  
International Filing Date: July 17, 2003  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD,  
INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD, RECORDING MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows: